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25 November 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

25 November 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Communist China: Peiping now acknowledges that last summer's drought in at least one key central China rice-growing province resulted in an almost total loss of crops from 25 percent of the land and sharp reductions on another 15 percent. The regime has been taking the line that the effects of the drought, while serious, had been overcome through a combination of the "superior organization of communes" and the party's fight against "rightist-inclined tendencies." This year's crop will almost certainly be no better than last year's, and Peiping is taking measures to restrict consumption and improve distribution in a major effort to avoid the shortages which developed late last winter.

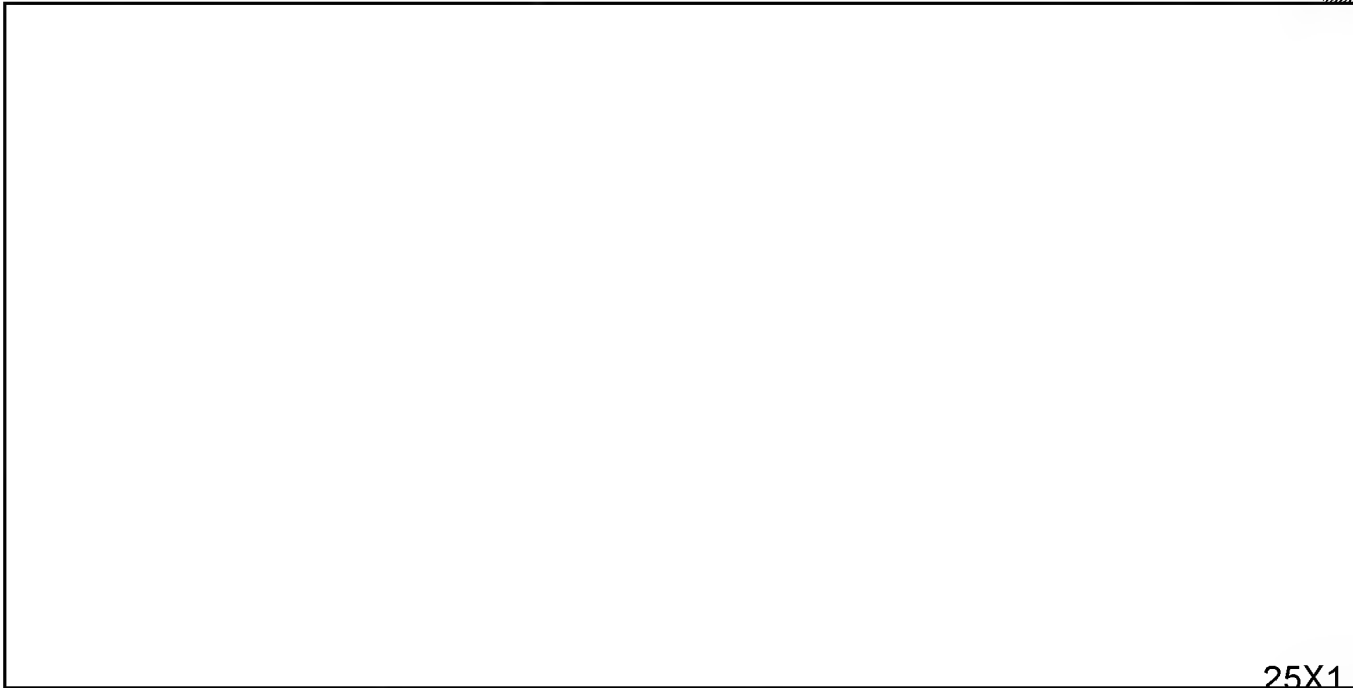
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II. ASIA-AFRICA

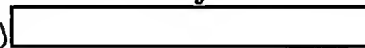
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Watch Committee Conclusions: (Situations susceptible of direct exploitation by Sino-Soviet bloc action which would jeopardize US interests exist in Laos and in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq. Although situations in Laos and Iraq appear relatively quiet at the present, there are many elements of continuing danger in both countries.)

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25 Nov 59

DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

NO Cuba: The final results of the congress of the Cuban Workers' Confederation (CTC), which ended on 23 November, included gains for the Communists. The congress rejected the "unity" slate for the top positions on the CTC executive committee which included Communists and was strongly endorsed by Fidel Castro. However, the "non-Communist" slate elected includes some who are Communist-oriented. An important Communist objective was achieved when the CTC voted to withdraw from the anti-Communist Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers. The CTC congress also passed several strongly anti-US resolutions.

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